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DOCTOR WHO: LISA GREENWOOD
BLAKE'S 7: JAN CHAPPELL

BIG FINISH | WE LOVE STORIES
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DIMENSIONS 2014

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SNEAK PREVIEWS AND WHISPERS

FRANKENSTEIN

After several months of planning, scripting and scheduling, Big Finish is pleased to announce that

Frankenstein finally lives, and January was spent reanimating corpses in Ladbroke Grove's Moat Studios!

Arthur Darvill and Nicholas Briggs (better known as Rory Williams and the Daleks from **Doctor Who**) star as Victor and his creature respectively, in a stunning adaptation from writer Jonathan Barnes, filled with plenty of familiar faces.

Joining them from the **Doctor Who** universe are Geoffrey Beevers (The Master) as Victor's father, Alphonse; Georgia Moffett (*The Doctor's Daughter*) as Victor's betrothed, Elizabeth; and Terry Molloy (Davros) as hard-bitten sailor Christensen; with Geoffrey Breton, Sarah Ovens, Lizzie Hopley, Stephen Fowell and Alex Jordan also featuring.

'This has been a project Arthur and I have wanted to do since **Doctor Who**,' explains producer and director Scott Handcock, 'but he's been fantastically busy, so we've only just been able to make our schedules coincide. I'm thrilled we have though. He's everything you could want from Victor, and the rest of the cast support him incredibly. If you've never ventured into the Big Finish Classics range before, this is definitely an exciting place to start...'

A four-disc special edition is scheduled for release in September, and will include an exclusive documentary, examining the worlds of horror on audio. The first five hundred copies will also include art cards signed by Arthur and Nick – so get your orders in early!

EDITORIAL

It's been quite a start to the year for us at Big Finish. First, our latest Big Finish Day event, which went down exceedingly well with patrons and guests alike (there'll be some pictures in next month's issue), and now a win for Best Online or Non-Broadcast Drama in the BBC Audio Drama awards!

We're proud of all our releases. Every last one of them. Many hours of blood, sweat, tears and more go into each one, and it's great to see that pay off, whether it's in getting that completed download/CD into our ears, reading enthusiastic comments from our ever-involved fanbase, or taking home a lovely trophy from an awards ceremony. Congratulations are due to everyone involved in our award-winning *Dark Eyes* for making it a hugely well-received (and now award-winning) story. But I suspect no one can be prouder than writer, director, Dalek-ised star and executive producer Nick Briggs.

It all leads neatly to this month, which brings *Dark Eyes 2* to the world. Those expecting more of the same will have a few shocks in store, as this second release in the series seeks to broaden the template of the story we began telling in the original *Dark Eyes*, bringing villains old and new along for the ride. You can read more about what's coming in our interview with stars Ruth Bradley and Nicola Walker, who got on exceedingly well during the recordings (there was a lot more giggling during the interview than I had space to put in) and forged a bond that transmits beautifully onto audio in this box set of stories.

That's not all, of course; there's a guide to our exciting new **Pathfinder** series, the equally giggly and delightful Lisa Greenwood talking about her latest trilogy with the Sixth Doctor, Jan Chappell on the **Blake's 7** range, Virginia Hey discussing her guest spot alongside the Fourth Doctor and a look back at Vienna's first solo adventure, all in what I'm resolutely refusing to call our 'girl power' or 'feisty females' issue.

Enjoy, and see you back here next month!

PAUL SPRAGG

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THE MOLLY AND LIV SHOW

RUTH BRADLEY AND NICOLA WALKER, RETURNING TO PLAY MOLLY O'SULLIVAN AND LIV CHENKA RESPECTIVELY, JOIN THE EIGHTH DOCTOR FOR **DARK EYES 2**. PAUL SPRAGG DISCOVERED, TO HIS COST, THAT THEY GOT ON EXCEEDINGLY WELL...

How does it feel to be back?

Ruth Bradley: I was glad to be back. Delighted!

Nicola Walker: Why did they let you come back?

RB: [laughs]

NW: I'm very pleased to be back. I thought they were just lying because they said, 'We'll have you back,' and I thought, 'Yeah, they always say that', but then they did, they did ring again.

RB: It was exactly like that for me. They rang a year and four months later!

Did you say you were way too busy and successful to do it now?

RB: Exactly! 'You missed your chance.'

NW: I think I said, 'Ooh, thanks. Thanks very much.' I'd been waiting by the phone.

How have things changed when we meet your characters again?

RB: [playing for time] Liv Chenka?

NW: Molly, thanks. The second time round meeting the Doctor is quite interesting because obviously she doesn't realize it's the Doctor [Liv met the Seventh Doctor in *Robophobia*]; she takes a while to be persuaded. She's found, as Med Officer, on a Dalek-controlled world. She's got a little bit harder if anything, I think, and a little broken down by the situation, with Dalek oppression, and she's tried to fight it in her own way. It's hard. It's hard to beat

them. It's really, really hard. But she is incredibly rude to them and dismissive of them, which is impressive. Your go, Molly.

RB: Er...

NW: Come on, Molly.

RB: I think Molly's the opposite; when we come to meet her, she's a bit softer. She's definitely not as hard as she was at the beginning of the first time we met her. She's not in the War any more, so she's much more relaxed, she's living rent-free in the Doctor's house; no stress, just taking care of some people. She's just happy to see the Doctor and pretty relaxed. And she hasn't had any retrogenitor particle action since. She's much lighter, I think, in this whole box set.

"IT PUTS A SPRING IN YOUR STEP, JUMPING ON A BUS. 'I'M BUSY. I'M SAVING THE WORLD TODAY.'"

Do you think the Doctor has a positive or negative impact on your characters?

NW: From what I've understood about Molly's character, Molly and the Doctor have a relationship that's much closer, a lot more understanding of each other. Liv doesn't understand the Doctor. She doesn't understand why, given the opportunity, he wouldn't go back in time and change it and make everything right and better and save everybody. She doesn't understand why he wouldn't utilize that power. She doesn't really get it. She's not understanding the role of the Doctor quite as much. I think Molly gets all of that, doesn't she; she understands him more.

RB: Yeah. I don't really know why, but they're kind of on the same page and she gets that morally he can't do that stuff, that he can't be interfering with what's meant to be. They do kind of agree on that.

Who have been your favourite people to work with?

RB: Liv Chenka!

NW: Oh, we just so want a spin-off! Molly and Liv Chenka.

Below: Ruth Bradley



Nicola Walker and Ruth Bradley

I would like them somehow to move forward together in some way.

RB: Yeah, and meet in the middle because Liv Chenka's in the future and Molly's in the past.

NW: Yeah! Maybe I could come back and visit and you could show me what it was like in your past.

RB: A bit grim.

NW: She'd be all right there, Liv Chenka. She'd be like, 'Oh, I'm completely at home on this battlefield. I'm with you all the way, Molly!' And you'd be brilliant coming to Nixyce VII as well. You'd be right useful.

RB: It would be brill. We even did the photos today for it!

NW: Yeah, we did the cover of the box set of **The Molly and Liv Show**.

RB: Yeah, come on. You can call this **Molly and Liv** instead of **Doctor Who**.



Above: Alex Macqueen

NW: It's like we're sisters!

RB: Yeah! Or like, I'm married to Liv Chenka!

NW: Yeah, like you're my wife! [pauses] This is getting weird.

So, returning to the question: who have you most enjoyed working with?

RB: I've really enjoyed meeting everybody and every day there's new peeps in, and their new stories and anecdotes. I think we should be recording in the green room, with all the different actors who come in, all their stories, their funny sense of humour. There was one day there were three guys in here who were so on the same page.

NW: They knew everything about **Doctor Who**. Absolutely everything. Encyclopaedic.

RB: I don't want to name names, but they know who they are.

NW: That's quite good, if you're lost in a scene. There is usually someone around who knows exactly where you've been, where you're going and what you're meant to know.

And how's Paul McGann been?

RB: Brilliant! He's been great. Paul's brilliant. I'm on Twitter now.

NW: Yeah, he's got you on Twitter, hasn't he?

RB: That's really what I'm here for, to further my Twitter career. I've had two good days on it so far.

NW: How many followers have you got now?

RB: I think I have twenty-nine.

NW: Oh, then I'm going to follow you.

RB: Fifteen a day! If I keep going that way, I'm gonna take over the world. Please don't put that.

NW: Leave this in!

RB: None of this, this is terrible!

“THAT'S REALLY WHAT I'M HERE FOR, TO FURTHER MY TWITTER CAREER. I'VE HAD TWO GOOD DAYS ON IT SO FAR.”

So what's your Twitter name?

RB: Ruthbradley49. Am I just plugging myself?

NW: I really think you are. Especially when we were actually asked what it was like to work with Paul McGann at the beginning of this and it's turned into what it's like for you to be on Twitter.

RB: Basically, I'm on Twitter and Paul's lovely.

NW: Were you with Paul last time [in studio] as well?

RB: Mm-hmm. This is my second time.

NW: I've had a regeneration, you see. It was Sylvester McCoy last time and then this time it's Paul. He's amazing. You watch him in the booth; he's got, like, a page speech and he does it first time straight off, he doesn't pause for breath. And then you're left with two words and having to do it five times. He's impressive.

RB: He also manages to get some kind of charming cheekiness into his voice all the time with these huge chunks of exposition, and you're like, 'How the hell do you manage to push that through?' He's brilliant. And a lovely man.

What about Nick Briggs' directing?

RB: He's been brilliant.

NW: My favourite day was his Dalek day, where he came into the booths rather than being in the control box and he had, I think it was six different Dalek voices to do in a row and I thought, 'How's he going to do that?' and he just did them all and they all had distinct characters and distinct voices. Really cool. And you spot it as well, because he takes one Dalek voice through a scene and you think, 'Oh, that's Dalek Three, the one that's got a really high register'.

RB: It's a real talent.



BBC
DOCTOR WHO

DARK EYES 2

The Traitor by Nicholas Briggs
The White Room by Alan Barnes
Time's Horizon by Matt Fitton
Eyes of the Master by Matt Fitton

When the Doctor defeated the Dalek Time Controller and its Time Lord ally, the timelines shifted and events changed... but the danger is far from over. And new threats to the continued safety of the universe are emerging.

Molly O'Sullivan carried on with her life as a nursing assistant in World War One. She probably thought she would never see the Doctor in his 'Tardy-box' again...

From the Dalek-occupied planet Nixyce VII through Earth's history and to the very edge of the universe, the Doctor's footprints across eternity are being tracked by foes old and new. But when did it all begin and when will it end? Living his life through the complexities of time travel, the Doctor can never be quite sure if he's experiencing his life in the most helpful order. The only certainty appears to be the advance of the powers of evil and the oncoming threat of a fight to the death against forces that would destroy everything the Doctor holds dear.

You've both been here all week; what's been your overview of it all?

RB: This is so much fun. There is nothing bad to report about this. Even though I'm a bit wrecked today and I can't wait to go to bed, I don't really want it to be over either.

NW: The first morning I felt really, really nervous and then as it came up to lunch, these famous, fabulous, legendary lunches, and everyone's making jokes, you just go, 'Oh, I remember where I am, I remember how this works, I remember how this feels' and you slip into something very comfortable very, very quickly. I'd happily do this a lot longer than four days.

RB: Absolutely. I feel like a real member of society! I love it! I'd love to do it for weeks! Getting on the Tube and everything – brilliant!

NW: It's like being a grown-up, isn't it? Like a real job with really nice people who talk to you.

RB: I was smugly nodding to commuters: 'Oh, the old morning rush again...'

NW: 'We're busy doing **Doctor Who**. Busy, busy busy...' It does give you a really strange...

RB: Smug happiness.

NW: It puts a spring in your step, jumping on a bus. 'I'm busy. I'm saving the world today.' You have some of the moral superiority of Doctor Who. It's funny.

What else have you got coming up?

NW: You go, because I've got absolutely nothing.

RB: [A very long pause]

NW: I'm writing a radio drama, a pilot, about these two women who work in the police force.

RB: [I've got] some things coming out; another sci-fi thing called **Horizon**.

NW: You don't mean [UK science fact series] **Horizon**?

RB: No, this thing I was doing in the States.

NW: Canada.

RB: Yeah, that's a sci-fi thing.

NW: What is it, a TV thing? I've turned into the interviewer, I'm so sorry.

RB: You can leave now, Paul.

NW: TV series or a film?

RB: It's a pilot, right? So they'll either make it into a series or a two-hour TV movie.

NW: Have they decided which they're doing?

RB: No, we'll find out in November. So either that's coming out as a film or I'm going back to finish the series. So that's the next thing.

NW: I've got **Last Tango in Halifax 2** coming out in November; I think we finish on Christmas Eve, the last episode.

RB: You finish filming or it's on?

NW: It's on. The last episode's on Christmas Eve. I've finished filming. [aside] We've got on really well. She's really listened to everything I've told her about my life.

[They both burst out laughing again] **VORTEX**



THE CHAPPELL WE LOVE

JAN CHAPPELL TALKS TO PAUL SPRAGG ABOUT GETTING THE OLD GANG BACK TOGETHER FOR NEW FULL CAST **BLAKE'S 7**

Hi Jan. What's it like reuniting with everyone?

■ Having the whole cast together brings back all those many memories of thirty-odd years ago. So it's been really fun. I've enjoyed today very much indeed. It seemed to me the same old vibe was there, same old group dynamics, and I really have enjoyed it a lot.

How do the full cast audios compare with the **Liberator Chronicles**?

■ I think they're both really interesting. I'm full of admiration for the **Chronicles** scripts and how they

manage to make those live despite the fact that you've probably only got two original cast members in a lot of them. But the storytelling element and the dialogue seemed to me to work very well. It did to me as an actor. I believed I was in working on episodes full of all the other characters. Today felt special simply because of all the lovely people I hadn't seen for a while all together, ribbing each other and laughing between the takes, but as disciplined as always and serving up the goods when push came to shove. I think everyone works extremely hard and does that very well – if I say so myself.



BATTLEGROUND

Blake and the crew of the *Liberator* have a new mission - and their target is on Straxis, a planet also known as Battleground 9.

Because Straxis is a training ground for thousands of Federation troops, and the *Liberator* has journeyed directly into their sights.

Has Blake finally picked a battle he cannot possibly win?

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“I THINK EVERYONE WORKS EXTREMELY HARD AND DOES THAT VERY WELL – IF I SAY SO MYSELF.”

Do you feel it's helped you expand your character?

■ That's a difficult one. Although I've said it's lovely being reminded of how it was thirty years ago, we're different people doing it; we're not the same as we were thirty years ago, are we, so I suppose we have different perspectives that we bring to it. But I still think you can only be as good as your scripts; if the scripts are good, you'll hopefully be as good as them.

What do you make of the conflict dynamic between the main characters?

■ We're in little conflicts and misunderstandings as a group, working together against whoever the other protagonist is. I think that may be to do with the dynamic number for a dinner party is eight; you have to have the group. That's the largest number of people that will remain, as it were, 'a conversation'. If you have it bigger than that, they'll break up into groups, but if you have your dynamic eight... So maybe [seven] is a good number; it's a big number to handle on screen but maybe that's part of it, I don't know.

You're clearly delighted to be back in Blake's 7; do you still feel it was right to leave when you did, after three series?

■ It was completely the right decision for me because my enthusiasm waned and it would have been wrong if I'd continued without the same enthusiasm. It would have been destructive to me, and probably not helpful to the production if I'd continued beyond the point where I felt that I could do it full-bloodedly. It wouldn't have been right. **VORTEX**



ON THE 9117 SIDE

BACK FOR A SECOND TRILOGY OF TALES AS FLIP, LISA GREENWOOD CHATTED CONVENTIONS, COLIN AND **CASUALTY** WITH PAUL SPRAGG

Hello Lisa! How are you?

■ Good thanks! How are you?

Not bad. A bit sniffly.

■ I think we all are. Hay fever. They let me have little sniffle breaks so I can blow my nose.

I suspect that may not be strictly true. So, what's it like being back?

■ It's been great! It's normal. It would have been a bit scary being back, but it's like I've not been away really.

Last time, you dropped by the forums to see what people thought of you.

■ I did, I did. The first ever time I did I dropped by and had

a look to see what everyone was saying, but hopefully everyone enjoyed them. I've got a few people on Twitter always commenting and saying how much they enjoyed the character so I'm glad at least some people enjoyed it. I can't speak for everyone, but I'm happy at least one person did!

And now you've been asked back.

■ I'm really happy about that, actually. I really enjoyed the character and it's really fun for me to play. It's different to anything I've played before, really. She's quite outspoken, she can be quite brash, but she's a really fun character to play.

It's also enabled you to have the convention experience.

■ I have, yes. It was great fun. I really enjoyed it. I was

lucky enough to go to the LA one first, so that was my first experience of a convention and that was great, and Chicago, Chicago was the same really. I was saying to David [Richardson, producer] earlier actually, it's nice to see people with so much of a passion for something. They love **Doctor Who**, and it's nice to see that, to experience that. It's crazy; everyone's so into it. There was a costume party out there; you saw a tortoise dressed as a TARDIS at the Chicago one. I think the tortoise was called Sheila, if I remember rightly. The costumes were amazing!

Did you find the fans terrifying first time out?

■ I wouldn't say they're terrifying at all, just really friendly! And they really want to get to know you and wanna get to know your work; and I just think that's really nice, actually, very endearing. Lovely.

What's the arc for Flip in this new trilogy?

■ Flip for me; she's always been quite confident, but she seems to have come out of her shell quite a lot more and she seems to be on her own quite a lot, with different people rather than the Doctor, so she's taking the lead in her own way. She has some really great moments in there; she's quite a funny character, so she has some really lovely comedy one-liners, but I think she really finds herself and her confidence and she's getting used to all this craziness so it's not really affecting her as much now, which is fun.

What can people expect from Flip this time?

■ I think just more of what we had before, really. She's kind of like a whirlwind, Flip. She's very much in your face.

It's been a couple of years since you've appeared in stories due to the rotation of Sixth Doctor companions.

■ It's sad, but it's also exciting. It does open the door for new stories and new companions, which I think's always good. When I first started I was the new companion and I think people were a bit dubious about that; but some people did like it. Some people might not have. It just gives the opportunity for another new person to come in and try it out and see if the fans are receptive. I don't think it's a bad thing. Change is good. Change is always good.

Last time around you got Daleks, your own death and Wirrn; quite the trial by fire.

■ I'm very lucky. Very brilliant writers, actually, and great



Above: Lisa Greenwood

"I'VE NEVER BEEN KILLED BEFORE! I DON'T WANT TO MAKE A HABIT OUT OF IT."

stories. That was really helpful for me, because it was my first audio experience really, properly, so it was good to have those scripts behind me. I think a lot of people said *The Fourth Wall* was one of their favourites, on Twitter.

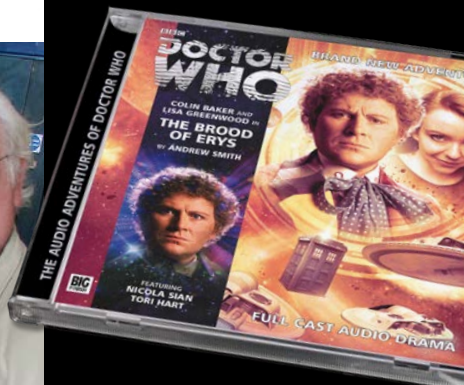
You got killed in that story; did you wonder if you'd be back for the next one when you got the script?

■ Yeah, [I was] frantically jumping to the end! It was great; it was something I've never done. I've never been killed before! I don't want to make a habit out of it. Everything was a learning experience for me, so even learning how to die in an audio was new. Colin [Baker, The Doctor]'s been very helpful; he helps me a lot really. In terms of how to do certain things, how to project a bit more, how to try and convey certain emotions through the audio; he's been great.

DOCTOR WHO: LISA GREENWOOD



Above: Chris Overton, Andrew Smith, Lisa Greenwood and Colin Baker



BBC
**DOCTOR
WHO**

THE BROOD OF ERYs

Now you're an experienced hand at audio, are you finding this second trilogy more comfortable to do?

■ I've kind of just got the same approach really; I try to read the script and try and get out what comes naturally. So I just try and do that a lot. Obviously it was great to be here the first time because you can be quite nervous, you've never done it before, so I did have a little more confidence this time – now that I've got one person who likes me who follows me on Twitter! That makes a big difference. I'm doing it for them!

Today one of the guest stars is Anjali Mohindra and you clearly get on exceedingly well.

■ We met at the [Chicago TARDIS] convention; Anjali was in *The Sarah Jane Adventures* and we became friends out there really. And we kept in touch when we came home, and it was really random; Nick [Briggs] said, 'I'm going to bring in Anjali' and I was like, 'Yes! Brilliant!' We've had quite a bit of fun on this [*Scavenger*] together. Everyone's been great. That's why I love working on Big Finish; you get new people in every time we do something and they've got so much talent and so much versatility in their voices and their accents.

I love all the guys at Big Finish; I've actually become quite attached to them. Even though Nick takes the mick out of me every single day. It doesn't help that my booth is right next to him as well, so I have to look

Space travellers are warned to keep away from the area of the planet Asphya and its unremarkable moon Erys. Not the best place to materialise the TARDIS, then – as the Doctor discovers when his ship is raided by the imp-like Drachee, and his companion Flip is carried away...

But the TARDIS isn't the only stricken vessel in the region. Aboard a nearby space yacht, the Doctor encounters a woman who holds in her head the secret of Erys – a secret suppressed by amnesia, or worse.

Flip, too, is about to learn Erys' secret. But once you know Erys' secret, you can never escape.

THE BROOD OF ERYs IS AVAILABLE THIS MONTH ON CD AND DOWNLOAD FROM BIGFINISH.COM



"YOU FIND YOURSELF IN THE BOOTH DOING THESE RIDICULOUS MOVEMENTS."

at him every day. But it's all good fun, and I'd love to come back. I really enjoy it here and everyone's great, so if you want me back, I'll come back!

Thanks to your comment on Twitter, everyone calls Nick Dalek Face now. So that's a small measure of revenge.

■ I'm glad to have been of service. Brilliant! I love that; I must think of more insults. I think he loves it, to be honest.

Have you got a taste for audio work now?

■ Definitely. This is the only audio work that I've ever done but I do really enjoy it and it's so much fun. It's probably one of the funnest experiences I've had throughout my career, because you can really let go and you have to make everything a lot bigger. So you find yourself in the booth doing these ridiculous movements and these ridiculous faces, and it's just really, really fun. I've laughed quite a lot since I've been here, so it's good.

What do you have coming up?

■ I'm back on the audition thing; I'm waiting to hear back on a few different bits which is exciting but we're just waiting for something exciting to do.

I've done an episode of **Casualty** recently, in which I had a fake tan reaction, which was quite fun.

Hang on... what???

■ My boyfriend put peanut butter in my fake tan, I was allergic to peanut butter and my face went up, basically blew up. That was the storyline. It was something fun as well; after **The Hour**, quite a serious period drama, it was good to just kick back and relax and do something a bit more with a comedy aspect to it.

Do you find comedy particularly appealing?

■ I wanna be as varied as possible. I am drawn to comedy; I try to put a bit of it into my script when I'm reading. But I'd like to be varied. It's weird; when you do a period drama or something, you yearn to do a bit of comedy, but when you do the comedy, you yearn to do a bit of period drama. So I'd like to do a bit of everything really. **VORTEX**

HEY ON WHY



VIRGINIA HEY, GUEST STAR OF THIS MONTH'S *FOURTH DOCTOR ADVENTURE WHITE GHOSTS*, REVEALS TO PAUL SPRAGG WHY *DOCTOR WHO* MEANS SO MUCH TO HER

Hello Virginia. How does it feel to be in *Doctor Who*?

■ I'm so flabbergasted I can't tell you, because I'm a great *Doctor Who* fan. In fact, *Doctor Who* was the only show I was allowed to watch on TV for many, many years, I think until I was about fourteen. Then I went back to Australia. Oh, that and *The Avengers*, I was allowed to watch *The Avengers* towards the end. So it's a huge thrill and what an honour. And [Tom Baker, *The Doctor*] is the most fascinating gentleman. When I met him I immediately called him sir. No, really! Because he's a majestic actor and I really respect him a great deal. And I've just moved to the UK; I got here six weeks ago now. So I land in England and the very first job I have as an actor in the UK is with Tom Baker; it doesn't get better than that.

Who was 'your' *Doctor*?

■ Tom. It was Tom. And then after that I didn't watch *Doctor Who* for many, many years. And that's the era that my mind

"DOCTOR WHO WAS THE ONLY SHOW I WAS ALLOWED TO WATCH ON TV FOR MANY, MANY YEARS."

is locked into. Eras after that I was growing up very fast and I was moving in lots of different directions and there was school and college and so forth, so I didn't really get back into *Doctor Who* until fairly recently. But for me it's him. He's the one and only for me.

How did you get involved with *Big Finish*?

■ I met [producer] David Richardson at a *Doctor Who* convention. I think I approached him because someone said, 'Oh, you see over there, that's David Richardson from



Above: Tom Baker and Virginia Hey

Big Finish and they do lots of audiobooks. You should talk to him and see if they have any characters for you, because that would be amazing for you to do when you settle in to the UK.' So I approached him because I don't have an acting agent yet, and I just said, 'Oh my God, I would love to do some audiobooks and voiceovers,' and he said, 'Okay, I'll keep you in mind'. He approached me a few weeks ago and said, 'Right, we've got a character for you'. And here I am. I'm really chuffed! It's my first job in England!

What can you tell us about your character?

■ Let's just say she's a withered academic. I would say she's probably late sixties, maybe early seventies, and she's seen it all, and she's a teacher on another world. And she has her favourite students and she most obviously is irritated by other students, which I'm sure is natural for a teacher, but I think she's at the end of her life as a teacher. She's very driven and she's a very powerful character, and quite irritable as some elderly ladies can be. So she's a joy to play! It's so nice to me because I haven't played an elderly lady before. However, my character in *Farscape* was four hundred years old. But she was an alien.

What made you decide to return to the UK?

■ I was here when I was little, hence watching *Doctor Who* in black and white. Dad was a dentist; he decided to come over to England and set up a practice over here. Mum was a very creative woman; artist, journalist part time and classical music composer. Not famous, but that's just what she loved to do apart from raise her children. Part of raising us was showing us the beauty of Europe so she definitely wanted us to come over here for a few years so that she could take us through Europe and introduce us to the most famous and extraordinary art galleries and the cathedrals and the architecture and the creative energy. Then I stayed from [age] twenty, off and on, until thirty-eight. But all of those years here in England made me really feel like I was home. This is where I'm happiest in the world.

You mentioned *Farscape*, in which you played Zhaan. Do you miss the show?

■ There's aspects of it that I do miss a lot. I miss the character because when you give birth to a character as complex as Zhaan, a lot of you goes into the character and you really do feel as though you've given birth to a child and raised that child to adult and then released the child. But the love and the attachment are still there. I don't know if other actors feel that way about some of the roles they've played, but I certainly do. It was really nice to play that role because she wasn't human and I could just really let myself go. I didn't feel self-conscious in any way. Not that I was aware of being self-conscious before, but when you have a mask – it wasn't literally a mask, but figuratively – you can somehow relax behind it. So I do miss her. I put so much of myself into her that I miss her with all my heart and soul. But we always say that Zhaan is out there in the ether somewhere. Well, she's in here, isn't she? Really, she's in my heart.

Would you play her again on audio?

■ Oh, God yeah! If I don't have to paint myself blue in the studio! Why don't you do a spin-off, *Zhaan's World*? There you go. Good idea? **VORTEX**



WHITE GHOSTS IS AVAILABLE THIS MONTH ON CD AND DOWNLOAD FROM BIGFINISH.COM



CASTING THE RUNELORDS

WRITER MARK WRIGHT INTRODUCES THE WORLD
OF **PATHFINDER LEGENDS**

Hello Mark. Can you tell us about **Pathfinder Legends**?

■ It's a brand new audio epic from Big Finish that's a little bit different. It's a swords and sorcery series based on the best-selling **Pathfinder** roleplaying game from Paizo Publishing. It's been a hugely enjoyable challenge to take on a whole new world and cast of characters and work with Paizo, producer John Ainsworth and writer Cavan Scott on bringing **Pathfinder** to audio.

Where's the series set?

■ **Pathfinder** is set on Golarion, a world made up of many continents with the potential for all sorts of adventuring. *Burnt Offerings*, the first part of *Rise of the Runelords*, starts in the small town of Sandpoint on the Lost Coast of Varisia, a place we'll return to a few times during *Rise of the Runelords*.

Who do we find in Sandpoint?

■ *Burnt Offerings* opens with the arrival of the main characters, a group of adventurers comprising Ezren, Merisiel, Valeros and Harsk. They're a great mix of characters, and this is who we'll be following through the series. They start off defending Sandpoint from an attack by goblins, which is just the start of a much bigger story – an ancient evil is returning to Varisia, and our heroes are all that stand against it.

Do you need previous knowledge of the **Pathfinder** roleplaying game to enjoy **Pathfinder Legends**?

■ Not at all! Everything you need to know about our heroes and this exciting new world is introduced in *Burnt Offerings*, with more to discover as the series unfolds. Each

release can be enjoyed as a standalone adventure, but also forms part of a wider story: *Rise of the Runelords*.

as the swords clang and spells fire. It's a very rich and detailed world to immerse yourself in.

What's been the biggest challenge in bringing **Pathfinder Legends** to audio?

Finally, how would you sum up **Pathfinder Legends**?

■ Battles! Lots and lots of battles. **Pathfinder** is much more action-based than, say, **Doctor Who** or **Blake's 7** – which have plenty of action of their own. But with **Pathfinder**, there's so much more. It's been great fun writing these big scenes, seeing how far you can take it and find new ways to keep the dialogue fizzing along

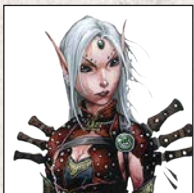
■ Adventure, magic, action, all wrapped up in a great deal of fun and wit. The characters are fantastic to write for – Merisiel is my favourite – and although we have a lot of action, it's still about these brilliant characters from the game and how they relate to each other. As all good drama should be. It's a new adventure for Big Finish and Paizo, and it's only just beginning. **VORTEX**

MEET THE LEGENDS



EZREN - WIZARD (TREVOR LITTLEDALE)

Whilst the group has no leader, Ezren's wisdom and experience often casts him in this role. The son of a merchant, Ezren's early life was one of privilege until his merchant father was accused of heresy against the god Abadar. His father declared guilty, Ezren turned his back on family and faith to walk a path that embraced the arcane disciplines and found a natural ability in the art of wizardry. Noting his experiences on the path of adventure in his journal, Ezren hopes one day to join the ranks of the Pathfinders.



MERISIEL - FORLORN ELF ROGUE (KERRY SKINNER)

Merisiel is one of the Forlorn – an elf born and raised in human society. Abandoned by her parents in Magnimar and placed in the care of the city's temple of Calistria, Merisiel soon found herself surviving on the streets as a thief for hire. Adventure on the roads of Varisia soon beckoned and as the years stretched on, she found homes in many different cities, always moving on when she outlived her companions. She is a fast talker and an even faster fighter, skilled with blade and acrobatic agility. She is yet to find a problem that a blade can't solve, and enjoys life to the full.



VALEROS - FIGHTER (STEWART ALEXANDER)

Valeros had always dreamed of adventure and excitement, but life tending cattle and harvesting corn on the farm seemed to be his destiny. On the eve of his wedding to a local girl, he realised the time had come to leave before the door of adventure closed forever. Valeros's innocence soon vanished in the reality of life on the road. Earning a living as a mercenary, Valeros is a formidable fighter. He might not be good at following orders, but he'll always have your back – especially if there's the promise of a tankard of ale and a pretty girl at the end of the day.



HARSK - DWARF RANGER (IAN BROOKER)

Unlike his dwarven brethren, Harsk prefers the wide skies and open road to the dark, claustrophobic tunnels. Having seen his brother killed at the hands of raiding giants, Harsk slaughtered the raiding party in revenge. Taking up his fallen brother's axe, the dwarf swore from that point on he would be the voice of justice in the wild, restoring balance where it was needed. And if he could kill a few giants on the way, all the better. Never the happiest of souls, Harsk is more at home walking the wilds, letting his axe do the talking where it's needed. And he won't thank you if you buy him an ale – this dwarf prefers tea...

LISTEN AGAIN...



THE MEMORY BOX

**KENNY SMITH TRIES TO
REMEMBER WHO HE IS AS HE
TAKES A LOOK AT VIENNA'S
FIRST SOLO ADVENTURE, THE
MEMORY BOX**

The sexiest and deadliest bounty hunter in the universe is back this month, as the first Vienna Salvatori box set is released.

After making her debut in 2012 *Doctor Who* play *The Shadow Heart*, by Jonathan Morris, Vienna – played by Chase Masterson – was given a pilot episode for a potential spin-off series, *The Memory Box*, in 2013, and now her first solo series is being released.

Jonny recalls, "In the case of *The Shadow Heart* I needed a cast of larger-than-life figures in order for them to be memorable and easily differentiated in what was quite a complicated, galaxy-spanning plot. So Vienna was created as a sort of comic strip character. Drawn with broad strokes. If anything, I thought Talbar and Horval (and their space snail Hercules) had more obvious potential and it was Chase Masterson's performance that lifted the character off the page and made Vienna spin-off material."

When producer David Richardson suggested giving Vienna a spin-off, Jonny was delighted. He admits, "I felt like I'd won a competition that I'd not even entered. The thought of spinning off my own little series of twisty-turny science fiction adventures and how much fun I would have developing my own 'world'. The only problem was to make Vienna a lead character – she's a loner, which is tricky to get across on audio when you're telling a story through conversations – and she's amoral and unscrupulous rather than heroic. But problems are good, they force you to come up with interesting and clever solutions."

The vivacious Vienna is brought to life by Chase Masterson, and she adores playing the character. The former *Deep Space Nine* star says, "When Vienna made her debut as the Seventh Doctor's nemesis in *The Shadow Heart*, the thing that struck me most was the amazing combination of hilarious, cheeky dialogue and solid science fiction, with intriguing concepts and lots of twists. And that's shown in the comments we've had on the *Vienna* pilot, *The Memory Box*; fans are excited to find a project that is both funny and fascinating.

"It's profound but doesn't take itself too seriously. Both scripts are written by the extremely talented Jonathan Morris, who is one of the best writers I've ever worked with, and quite possibly one of the best writers anywhere. They're as much fun to record as they are to listen to.

"I absolutely loved it. The character of Vienna is brilliant – really smart, really wry. She's excellent at what she does – being an impossibly glamorous, mercenary assassin isn't a piece of cake, you know. And yet again, she doesn't take herself too seriously – always has a cheeky comment at the ready – in that fabulous *Doctor Who* style. And she's vulnerable... I think she's generally likeable because she's so human, admits her frailties, screws up her fair share of the time, and still is smart enough to find her way to the top.

"In *Memory Box*, she gets in and out of some pretty tricky situations. The question is always 'how?'" **VORTEX**

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(AND SHE'S THE HEROINE)



CHASE MASTERSON

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FORTHCOMING RELEASES

FEBRUARY 2014

Doctor Who: *The Brood of Erys*
(183, Sixth Doctor and Flip)

Doctor Who - The Fourth Doctor Adventures:
White Ghosts (3.2, Fourth Doctor and Leela)

Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles:
The Sleeping City (8.08, First Doctor)

Doctor Who: *Dark Eyes 2* (Eighth Doctor)

Blake's 7: The Liberator Chronicles –
Box Set 7

Blake's 7: *Battleground* (1.2, Full Cast)

Vienna: *Series One* (Box Set)

Bernice Summerfield: *Adorable Illusion*
(Missing Persons tie-in book)

Dark Shadows 40: *The Harvest of Souls*

Pathfinder Legends: *Rise of the Runelords –
Burnt Offerings* (1.1, Full Cast)

MARCH 2014

Doctor Who: *Scavenger*
(184, Sixth Doctor and Flip)

Doctor Who - The Fourth Doctor Adventures:
The Crooked Man
(3.3, Fourth Doctor and Leela)

Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles:
Starborn (8.09, First Doctor)

Blake's 7: *Drones* (1.3, Full Cast)

Dark Shadows 41: *The Happier Dead*

APRIL 2014

Doctor Who: *Moonflesh*
(185, Fifth Doctor and Nyssa)

Doctor Who - The Fourth Doctor Adventures:
The Evil One (3.4, Fourth Doctor and Leela)

Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles:
The War to End All Wars (8.10, First Doctor)

Jago & Litefoot: *Series Seven Box Set*

Blake's 7: *Mirror* (1.4, Full Cast)

Pathfinder Legends: *Rise of the Runelords –
The Skinsaw Murders* (1.2, Full Cast)

Dark Shadows 42: *Carriage of the Damned*

MAY 2014

Doctor Who: *Tomb Ship*
(186, Fifth Doctor and Nyssa)

Doctor Who - The Fourth Doctor Adventures:
Last of the Colophon
(3.5, Fourth Doctor and Leela)

Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles:
The Elixir of Doom (8.11, Third Doctor)

Blake's 7: The Liberator Chronicles –
Box Set 8

Blake's 7: *Cold Fury* (1.5, Full Cast)

Blake's 7: *Novel 5* (Author TBA)

Charlotte Pollard: *Box Set 1*

Dark Shadows 43: *The Devil Cat*

JUNE 2014

Doctor Who: *Masquerade*
(187, Fifth Doctor and Nyssa)

Doctor Who - The Fourth Doctor Adventures:
Destroy the Infinite (3.6, Fourth Doctor and Leela)

Doctor Who - The Companion Chronicles:
Second Chances (8.12, Second Doctor)

Survivors: *Series One Box Set*

Blake's 7: *Caged* (1.6, Full Cast)

Pathfinder Legends: *Rise of the Runelords –
The Hook Mountain Massacre* (1.3, Full Cast)

Dark Shadows 44: *The Darkest Shadow*

JULY 2014

Doctor Who: *Breaking Bubbles and Other
Stories* (188, Sixth Doctor and Peri)

Doctor Who - The Fourth Doctor Adventures:
The Abandoned (3.7, Fourth Doctor and Leela)

Counter-Measures: *Series 3* (Box Set)

The Avengers – The Lost Episodes:
Volume 2 (Box Set)

AUGUST 2014

Doctor Who: *Revenge of the Swarm*
(189, Seventh Doctor, Ace and Hex)

Doctor Who - The Fourth Doctor Adventures:
Zygon Hunt (3.8, Fourth Doctor and Leela)

The Fifth Doctor Box Set
(Fifth Doctor, Adric, Nyssa and Tegan)

Blake's 7: The Liberator Chronicles –
Box Set 9

Pathfinder Legends: *Rise of the Runelords –
Fortress of the Stone Giants* (1.4, Full Cast)

SEPTEMBER 2014

Doctor Who: *Mask of Tragedy*
(190, Seventh Doctor, Ace and Hex)

Doctor Who: *Signs and Wonders*
(191, Seventh Doctor, Ace and Hex)

Doctor Who - The Early Adventures:
Domain of the Voord (1.1, First Doctor)

OCTOBER 2014

Doctor Who: *TBA* (192, TBA)

Doctor Who - The Early Adventures:
The Doctor's Tale (1.2, First Doctor)

Pathfinder Legends: *Rise of the Runelords –
Sins of the Saviors* (1.5, Full Cast)

NOVEMBER 2014

Doctor Who: *TBA* (193, TBA)

Doctor Who - The Early Adventures:
The Bounty of Ceres (1.3, First Doctor)

Doctor Who: *Dark Eyes 3* (Eighth Doctor)

Blake's 7: The Liberator Chronicles –
Box Set 10



REGENERATION

In response to a letter requesting a proper regeneration for the Sixth Doctor published in the November *Vortex*, I would like to echo Robert Graff's sentiments, praising Colin's performance on audio, the great job Big Finish has done with the character and the desire for the Sixth Doctor to get a proper send-off.

Therefore I was initially disappointed to read Nick's response saying that they are unlikely to produce a regeneration story because Colin still considers himself to be the Doctor!

But later I thought – wow, what a great opportunity this could be!

The TV anniversary had both John Hurt and Tom Baker playing a Doctor of advanced years and very soon we will be getting a Doctor who will be the same age as the very First Doctor – the Grandfather of them all. So what better time for Colin and Big Finish to give us the audio adventures of Old Sixty!

I'd imagine that this could be contentious, but Big Finish already has the **Unbound** brand that they could utilise if necessary, or simply not refer to the character as the Doctor as he could very well have given himself a new persona. Whatever; give it a couple of years and we might even see this older Sixth Doctor, just like the Eighth Doctor, return to our screen...

Michael Toates

Nick: Well, it's an interesting idea, Michael. Possibly too controversial for us. But... well, never say never. And I notice a lot of people asking about a Sixth Doctor regeneration story. Hmm. That's the sound of my brain mulling it over.

A HOLMES SCANDAL

Would you ever consider doing an adaptation of **A Scandal in Bohemia** for your **Sherlock Holmes** range? I think Nick Briggs and Richard Earl would have a field day with such an important piece of **Holmes** lore like that and would love to see (or rather hear) what kind of Irene Adler you would cast.

Arthur McCausland

Nick: We would certainly consider that. More news on **Holmes** soon.

Deep joy as ever receiving my latest **Doctor Who** monthly title – frustrated to find yet another cracked case – had at least ten of these! I appreciate the debate rages, but isn't it time to ditch crystal cases – a pain since they first appeared alllll those years ago. Cases could be made of cardboard to the same size with similar spine size or moulded plastic – a smaller version of the DVD case. Suggest you ask your subscribers to comment (again) or I would be pleased to coordinate a vote – you may publish my e-mail address. Something must be done! Yours thankfully

Paul Welsby

Nick: Thanks, Paul. It's something we should ask people in our upcoming survey. As I think I've said before, the problem with changing is that it spoils people's collection. Of course, broken cases spoil it anyway, I appreciate that. Breakages seem to be in the minority, and we are happy to replace broken ones; but it's an issue that we will continue to monitor. Really sorry you're having this trouble.

DAVID AGAIN?

I just have to ask: have you ever discussed the potential for **The First Doctor Adventures** starring the cast of **An Adventure in Space and Time**? I know you've said in the past that you are hesitant in casting new actors as the Doctors and the companions, but I'm fairly sure that after **An Adventure**, not a single fan would object to hearing David Bradley as the Doctor again.

Jouni Lahtinen

Nick: Like your thinking!

MEGA GOOD

I'd just like to congratulate all those who were involved in the production on *The Mega*. This excellent story captured the essence of the Third Doctor era and you guys did the late Jon Pertwee and Nicholas Courtney proud.

Katy Manning and Richard Franklin both did a marvellous job with the narrative and reprising their characters and I feel a Third Doctor box set with longer stories and full cast would benefit the Third Doctor range at Big Finish.

I think the Third Doctor has been limited to **Companion Chronicles**, which is ending soon, but after hearing this wonderful story, surely a Third Doctor box set would be a welcome addition to the Third Doctor era and fans?

I was also wondering if there are any plans for a Fourth Doctor Cybermen adventure? We only have one Fourth Doctor vs Cyberman story and that's a TV story, so I think a rematch with the Doctor, Leela and the Cybermen is about due. I for one can hear Leela saying, 'I shall fight these metal warriors to the death'.

Simon Rogers

Nick: Well, Simon, these are all great ideas. This is the kind of thing we're always discussing.

A RESOLUTION

As one of my new year's resolutions, I've decided to write a note of appreciation when I hear a Big Finish I think is exceptionally good (not just the usual incredibly high standard or I'd be writing all the time!). I'm a long-time subscriber to the main range **Doctor Who**, which I adore, and I've dabbled in the spin-offs (I particularly like **Jago & Litefoot**) and the first **Counter-Measures** box was intriguing enough for me to buy the second. I've just listened to *The Fifth Citadel*, on the strength of which alone I shall be pre-ordering the third box. It's intelligent, atmospheric and moving and, while all the performances are excellent, Karen Gledhill is amazing in this (the crypt scene, particularly, stands out in my mind). I love the direction this series is going in at the moment and I can't wait to hear more.

Thank you for being brilliant.

Simon Wood

Nick: Thanks, Simon. We're so lucky to have such a great team working on our productions. David Richardson, Ken Bentley, Martin Montague and the cast have done such beautiful work on **Counter-Measures**. Doing the music for it is one of my favourite jobs. I'm already gearing up for **Counter-Measures** series three. I can't wait! I think Karen has done some outstanding work for us, hasn't she? Bloomin' well done, I say!

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